NETWORK-BASED PHOTOMASK DATA ENTRY INTERFACE AND INSTRUCTION GENERATOR FOR MANUFACTURING PHOTOMASKS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer network for generating instructions for photomask manufacturing equipment, based on photomask specification data input by a customer. A series of

5   order entry screens are downloaded to a remote customer's computer, typically via an internet connection. The customer is prompted to enter photomask specification data, which is delivered to computing equipment on the manufacturer's local network. The manufacturer's

10   computing equipment validates the photomask specification data, and uses this data to generate fracturing instructions and equipment control instructions. The fracturing instructions, together with pattern design data from the customer, are delivered to a fracture

15   engine, which provides fractured pattern data. The control instructions and the fractured pattern data may then be electronically delivered to the manufacturing equipment.